

39191

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

MFG. 9/69

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 01208 290808Z

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-12 L-04 DODE-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 H-02 SS-20  
RSR-01 RSC-01 /046 W

----- 102020

P R 281200Z MAR 70  
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2728  
INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA  
CINCSRIKE/CINCMCAFSA

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 1208

PM RE PINCUS/PAUL TRIP

SUBJECT: ADVANCE NOTICE TWO PINCUS QUERIES

REF: ADDIS 1206

1. EMBASSY PREPARING FULL SUMMARY ADDIS DISCUSSIONS PINCUS AND PAUL, BUT WISH PROVIDE NOTICE OF TWO SPECIFIC QUERIES PRESSED BY PINCUS IMMEDIATELY PRIOR HIS DEPARTURE THIS MORNING.
2. HE RETURNED AGAIN TO QUESTION OF HERTER UNDERTAKING (STATE 044116) AND REQUESTED COPY. HE WAS ASKED TAKE THIS UP WITH DEPARTMENT AND SAID HE WOULD. SPECIFICALLY ASKED THAT DEPARTMENT BE INFORMED HIS INTENTION REQUEST COPY. THERE HAS BEEN NO FURTHER DISCUSSION THIS SUBJECT WITH HIM SINCE ORIGINAL QUERY REPORT ADDIS 1158.
3. HE REFERRED TO BRIEFINGS PROVIDED ASMARA (REFTEL) AND ASKED FOR FACTUAL INFORMATION DEFINING IEG UTILIZATION MAP-PROVIDED T-28'S AGAINST ELF, SUCH AS NUMBER COMBAT SORTIES AND AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE FIGURES, WITH COMPARATIVE FIGURES SHOWING TRENDS OVER PAST APPROXIMATELY TWO YEARS. HE WAS TOLD NATURE OF FUNCTIONS SERVED BY MAAG/AIR FORCE ADVISORS SUCH THAT THIS KIND OF DETAILED OPERATIONAL INFORMATION NOT ORDINARILY AVAILABLE TO US AND WOULD IN ANY EVENT

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PAGE 02 ADDIS 01208 290808Z  
BE LESS THAN ACCURATE. TOLD HIM, HOWEVER, WE WOULD  
PROVIDE ANY AVAILABLE INFORMATION TO  
DEPARTMENT, WHERE DETERMINATION RE RELEASE TO COMMITTEE  
WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE. (HE SAID COMMITTEE WOULD BE  
DISINCLINED ACCEPT ARGUMENT OF LACK OF KNOWLEDGE AND  
WOULD ASSUME RESPONSIBLE ADMINISTRATION OF MAP PROGRAM  
WOULD REQUIRE OUR HAVING KNOWLEDGE OF TYPE REQUESTED.)

4. COMMENT: PINCUS SEEKING BY SECOND QUESTION ESTABLISH FACTUAL  
PICTURE OF SIZE AND SERIOUSNESS ELF PROBLEM,  
MAGNITUDE AND INTENSITY IEG COUNTER-INSURGENCY  
EFFORT, AND EXTENT OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT EVEN INDIRECTLY  
THROUGH IEG DEPENDENCE ON MAP-SUPPLIED EQUIPMENT. HE  
NOTED TO DCM T-28 QUESTION ONLY ILLUSTRATIVE OF TYPE  
OF QUESTION THAT MIGHT BE POSED BY COMMITTEE IN EFFORT  
DRAW OUT QTE FACTUAL UNGTE PICTURE ERITREAN SITUATION  
ON WHICH SENATORS COULD BASE JUDGMENTS REGARDING DEGREE  
OF PRESENT, OR DANGER OF FUTURE U.S. INVOLVEMENT  
ETHIOPIAN SECURITY PROBLEMS. PERSISTENCE ON HERTER  
UNDERTAKING OF COURSE CLOSELY RELATED THIS GENERAL LINE  
OF INTEREST.

5. WHILE WE WILL IMMEDIATELY DETERMINE FACTUAL  
INFORMATION RE T-28'S AVAILABLE TO US AND PROVIDE TO  
DEPARTMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, WE INCLINED DOUBT EITHER  
THAT INFORMATION AVAILABLE U.S. SOURCES WILL BE COMPLETE  
AND ACCURATE OR THAT KIND OF INFO RE OPERATIONS T-28'S  
WOULD ACHIEVE BALANCED PICTURE PINCUS SAYS HE SEEKS  
ILLUMINATE FOR SENATORS. ACCURE INFORMATION RE IEG  
COUNTER-INSURGENCY OPERATIONS ERITREA ALMOST CERTAINLY  
MUST INVOLVE MANY OTHER FACETS OF SITUATION TO BE  
USEFUL. SUCH INFORMATION ALSO CAN PROBABLY BE PROVIDED  
ONLY BY IEG. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE WE COULD OBTAIN THIS  
INFORMATION REGULARLY ONLY THROUGH A DEGREE OF INVOLVEMENT  
IEG COUNTER-INSURGENCY ACTIVITIES WE WOULD CONSIDER  
UNWISE AND LIKELY INVOLVE US DIRECTLY IEG ACTIONS.  
RECOGNIZE COMMITTEE UNLIKELY ACCEPT THIS EXPLANATION.

6. SINCE MUST ASSUME ANY INFORMATION PROVIDED COMMITTEE  
WILL ULTIMATELY ENTER PUBLIC DOMAIN IN SOME FORM AND  
BECOME KNOWN TO IEG, IF DEPARTMENT DETERMINES TO PROVIDE

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PAGE 03 ADDIS 01208 290808Z

INFORMATION RESPONSE PINCUS QUERY ON ERITREAN SITUATION  
SUGGEST CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO INITIAL RESPONSE TO

COMMITTEE ALONG FOLLOWING LINES: DESIRED INFORMATION  
NOT AVAILABLE TO U.S. MISSION IN ETHIOPIA, OWING TO FACT  
MAAG AND OTHER MISSION PERSONNEL ASSIGNED FUNCTIONS  
PURPOSELY SEPARATED FROM ACTIVE MILITARY OPERATIONS,  
INVOLVEMENT IN WHICH CONSIDERED AGAINST U.S. INTERESTS. IF

COMMITTEE DESIRES DETAILED OPERATIONAL INFORMATION  
ON IEG COUNTER-INSURGENCY OPERATIONS, EMBASSY WILL BE  
INSTRUCTED REQUEST FACTS FROM IEG WITH EXPLANATION OF  
PURPOSE. ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE TO GIVE IEG ADVANCE  
INFORMATION ON MATERIALS HAVE AND INTEND OFFER COMMITTEE  
THUS AFFORDING OPPORTUNITY FOR THEM TO CORRECT FACTS  
AND RAISE ANY OBJECTION THEY MAY WISH.

7. PINCUS INDICATED SCHEDULED RETURN WASHINGTON SUNDAY,  
MAR 29.  
HALL

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